

SPRING: ✓

A

POEM.

First published in 1726

By Mr. JAMES THOMSON,
AUTHOR of SUMMER and WINTER.

*Et nunc omnis Ager, nunc omnis parturit Arbos,
Nunc frondent Silva, nunc formosissimus Annus.*

Virg.

179 Dublin Ed.

D U B L I N :

Printed by S. POWELL,

For GEORGE RISK, at *Shakespear's-head*,
GEORGE EWING, at the *Angel and Bible*,
And WILLIAM SMITH, at the *Hercules*,
Bookfellers in *Dame's-street*, 1728.





SPRING:

A

POEM.



COME, gentle SPRING, Ætherial Mild-
ness, come,
And from the Bosom of yon dropping
Cloud,

While Music wakes around, veil'd in a Shower
Of shadowing Roses, on our Plains descend,

ON HERTFORD, fitted, or to shine in Courts
With unaffected Grace, or walk the Plain,

With *Innocence*, and *Meditation* join'd
 In soft Assemblage, listen to my Song,
 Which thy own Season paints, when Nature all
 Is blooming, and benevolent like Thee.

AND see where surly WINTER passes off,
 Far to the North, and calls his ruffian Blasts;
 His Blasts obey, and quit the howling Hill,
 The shatter'd Forest, and the ravag'd Vale:
 While softer Gales succeed, at whole kind Touch,
 Dissolving Snows in sudden Torrents lost,
 The Mountains lift their green Heads to the Sky.

As yet the trembling Year is unconfirm'd,
 And *Winter* oft at Eve resumes the Breeze,
 Chills the pale Morn, and bids his driving Sleets
 Deform the Day delightful; so that scarce
 The Bittern knows his Time, with Bill ingulph'd
 To shake the sounding Marsh, or from the Shore
 The Plovers theirs, to scatter o'er the Heath,
 And sing their wild Notes to the listening Waste.

S P R I N G.

3

A T last from *Aries* rolls the bounteous Sun,
 And the bright *Bull* receives Him. Then no more
 Th' expansive Atmosphere is cramp'd with Cold,
 But full of Life, and vivifying Soul,
 Lifts the light Clouds sublime, and spreads them thin,
 Fleecy, and white, o'er All-surrounding Heaven.

F O R T H fly the tepid Airs; and unconfin'd,
 Unbinding Earth, the moving Softness strays.
 Joyous th' impatient Husbandman perceives
 Relenting Nature, and his lusty Steers
 Drives from their Stalls, to where the well-us'd Plow
 Lies in the Furrow loosen'd from the Frost.
 There, unrefusing to the harness'd yoke,
 They lend their Shoulder, and begin their Toil,
 Chear'd by the simple Song, and soaring Lark,
 Mean-while incumbent o'er the shining Share
 The Master leans, removes th' obstructing Clay,
 Winds the whole Work, and side-long lays the Glebe.

A 3

W H I T E

A T

WHITE thro' the neighb'ring Fields the Sower
stalks,

With measur'd Step, and liberal throws the Grain
Into the faithful Bosom of the Earth,
The Harrow follows harsh, and shuts the Scene.

Be gracious, *Heaven!* for now laborious Man
Has done his Due. Ye fostering Breezes blow!
Ye softening Dews, ye tender Showers descend!
And temper all, thou influential Sun,
Into the perfect Year! Nor, Ye who live
In Luxury and Ease, in Pomp and Pride,
Think these lost Themes unworthy of your Ear,
'Twas such as these the *Rural Maro* sung
To the full *Roman* Court, in all it's Height
Of Elegance and Taste. The sacred Blow
Employ'd the Kings and Fathers of Mankind,
In antient Times. And Some, with whom compar'd
You're but the Beings of a Summer's Day,
Have held the Scale of Justice, shook the Launce
Of mighty War, then with descending Hand,

Unus'd

S P R I N G,

5

Unus'd to little Delicacies, seiz'd
The Plow, and greatly independent liv'd!

Ye generous *Britons* cultivate the Plow!
And o'er your Hills, and long with-drawing Vales,
Let *Autumn* spread his Treasures to the Sun,
Luxuriant, and unbounded. As the Sea,
Far thro' his azure, turbulent Extent,
Your Empire owns, and from a thousand Shores
Wafts all the Pomp of Life into your Ports,
So with superior Boon may your rich Soil,
Exuberant, Nature's better Blessings pour
O'er every Land, the naked Nations cloath,
And be th' exhaustless Granary of the World!

N O W thro' the lenient Air alone, this Change
Delicious breathes; the penetrative Sun,
His Force deep-darting to the dark Retreat
Of Vegetation, sets the streaming Power
At large, to wander o'er the verdant Earth
In various Hues, but chiefly Thee, gay *Green*!
Thou smiling *Nature's* universal Robe!

A ♦

United

United Light and Shade ! where the Sight dwells
With growing Strength, and ever-new Delight ?

FROM the moist Meadow to the brown-brow'd
Hill,

Led by the Breeze, the vivid Verdure runs,
And swells, and deepens to the cherish'd Eye.
The Hawthorn whitens ; and the juicy Groves
Put forth their Buds, unfolding by Degrees,
Till the whole leafy Forest stands display'd
In full Luxuriance, to the sighing Gales,
While the Deer rustle thro' the twining Brake,
And the Birds sing conceal'd. At once array'd
In all the Colours of the flushing Year,
By Nature's swift and secret-working Hand,
The Garden glows, and fills the liberal Air
With lavish Fragrance ; while the promis'd Fruit
Lies yet a little Embrio, unperceiv'd,
Within it's Crimson Folds. Now from the Town
Buried in Smoak, and Sleep, and noisome Damps,
Oft let me wander o'er the dewy Fields,
Where Freshness breathes, and dash the lucid Drops

From

From the bent Bush, as thro' the fuming Maze
Of Sweet-Briar Hedges I pursue my Walk;
Or taste the Smell of Dairy; or ascend
Some Eminence, *Augusta*, in thy Plains,
And see the Country far-diffus'd around
One boundless Blush, one snow-empurpled Shower
Of mingled Blossoms; where the raptur'd Eye
Travels from Joy to Joy, and, hid beneath
The fair Profusion, yellow *Autumn* spies.

I brush'd from *Russian* Wilds a cutting Gale
Rise not, and scatter from his foggy Wings
The bitter Mildew, or dry-blowing breathe
Untimely Frost; before whose baleful Blast,
The full-blown *Spring* thro' all her Foliage shrinks,
Into a smutty, wide-dejected Waste.
For oft engender'd by the hazy North,
Myriads on Myriads, Insect-Armies waft
Keen in the poison'd Breeze; and wasteful eat
Thro' Buds, and Bark, even to the Heart of Oak
Their eager Way. A feeble Race! scarce seen,
Save to the prying Eye; yet Famine waits

On

On their corrosive Course, and starves the Year;
 Sometimes o'er Cities as they steer their Flight,
 Where rising Vapour melts their Wings away,
 Gaz'd by th' astonish'd Crowd, the horrid Shower
 Descends. And hence the skilful Farmer Chaff
 And blazing Straw before his Orchard burns,
 Till all involv'd in Smoak the latent Foe
 From every Cranny suffocated falls;
 Or Onions steaming hot beneath his Trees
 Exposés, fatal to the frosty Tribe:
 Nor, from their friendly Task, the busy Bill
 Of little trooping Birds instinctive scares.

THESE are not idle Philosophic Dreams;
 Full Nature swarms with Life. Th' unfaithful Fen
 In putrid Steams emits the living Cloud
 Of Pestilence. Thro' subterranean Cells,
 Where searching Sun-Beams never found a Way,
 Earth animated heaves. The flowery Leaf
 Wants not it's soft Inhabitants. The Stone,
 Hard as it is, in every winding Pore
 Holds Multitudes, But chief the Forest-Boughs,

Which

Which dance unnumber'd to th' inspiring Breeze,
The downy Orchard, and the melting Pulp
Of mellow Fruit the nameless Nations feed
Of evanescent Insects. Where the Pool
Stands mantled o'er with Green, invisible,
Amid the floating Verdure Millions stray.
Each Liquid too, whether of acid Taste,
Milky, or strong, with various Forms abounds,
Nor is the lucid Stream, nor the pure Air,
Tho' one transparent Vacancy they seem,
Devoid of theirs, Even Animals subsist
On Animals, in infinite Descent;
And all so fine adjusted, that the Loss
Of the least Species would disturb the whole,
Stranger than this th' inspective Glass confirms,
And to the Curious gives th' amazing Scenes
Of lessning Life; by *Wisdom* kindly hid
From Eye, and Ear of Man: for if at once
The Worlds in Worlds enclos'd were push'd to Light,
Seen by his sharpen'd Eye, and by his Ear
Intensely bended Heard, from the choice Gate,
The freshest Viands, and the brightest Wines,

He'd

He'd turn abhorrent, and in Dead of Night,
When Silence sleeps o'er all, be stun'd with Noise.

THE North-East spends his Rage, and now shut up
Within his Iron Caves, th' effusive South
Warms the wide Air, and o'er the Void of Heaven
Breathes the big Clouds with vernal Showers distent.
At first a dusky Wreath they seem to rise,
Scarce staining Æther; but by fast Degrees,
In Heaps on Heaps, the doubling Vapour sails
Along the loaded Sky, and mingling thick
Sits on th' Horizon round a settled Gloom.
Not such as wintry Storms on Mortals shed
Oppressing Life, but lovely, gentle, kind,
And full of every Hope, and every Joy,
The Wish of Nature. Gradual sinks the Breeze
Into a perfect Calm; that not a Breath
Is heard to quiver thro' the closing Woods,
Or rustling turn the many-twinkling Leaves
Of Aspin tall. Th' uncurling Floods, diffus'd
In glassy Breadth, seem thro' delusive Lapse
Forgetful of their Course. 'Tis Silence all,

And

And pleasing Expectation. Herds and Flocks
Drop the dry Sprig, and mute-imploring eye
The falling Verdure. Hush'd in short Suspense
The plummy People streak their Wings with Oil,
And waitth' approaching Sign to strike at once
Into the general Choir. Ev'n Mountains, Vales,
And Forests seem expansive to demand
The promis'd Sweetness. Man superior walks
Amid the glad Creation, musing Praise,
And looking lively Gratitude. At last
The Clouds consign their Treasures to the Fields,
And, softly shaking on the dimply Pool
Prelusive Drops, let all their Moisture flow
In large Effusion o'er the freshen'd World.
'Tis scarce to patter heard, the stealing Shower,
By such as wander thro' the Forest-Walks,
Beneath th' umbrageous Multitude of Leaves.
But who would hold the Shade, while *Heaven* descends
In universal Bounty, shedding Herbs,
And Fruits, and Flowers, on *Nature's* ample Lap?
Imagination fir'd prevents their Growth,
And while the verdant Nutriment distills,
Beholds the kindling Country colour round.

T H U S

THUS all Day long the full-distended Clouds
 Indulge their genial Showers, and well-shower'd Earth
 Is deep enrich'd with vegetable Life;
 Till, in the Western Sky, the downward Sun
 Looks out illustrious from amid the Flush
 Of broken Clouds, gay-shifting to his Beam,
 The rapid Radiance instantaneous strikes
 Th' illumin'd Mountain, thro' the Forest streams,
 Shakes on the Floods, and in a yellow Mist,
 Far-smoking o'er th' interminable Plain,
 In twinkling Myriads lights the dewy Gems.
 Moist, bright, and green, the Landskip laughs around,
 Full swell the Woods; their every Musick wakes,
 Mix'd in wild Consort with the warbling Brooks
 Increas'd, th' unnumber'd Bleatings of the Hills,
 The hollow Lows responsive from the Vales,
 Whence blending all the sweeten'd Zephyr springs.
 Mean-time refracted from yon Eastern Cloud,
 Bestriding Earth, the grand ætherial Bow
 Shoots up immense! and every Hue unfolds,
 In fair Proportion, running from the Red,
 To where the Violet fades into the Sky.

Here,

S P R I N G.

12

Here, mighty *Newton*, the dissolving Clouds
 Are, as they scatter round, thy numerous Prism,
 Untwisting to the Philosophic Eye
 The various Twine of Light, by Thee pursu'd
 Thro' all the mingling Maze. Not so the Swain,
 He wondering views the bright Enchantment bend,
 Delightful, o'er the radiant Fields, and runs
 To catch the falling Glory, but amaz'd
 Beholds th' amusive Arch before him fly,
 Then vanish quite away. Still Night succeeds,
 A soften'd Shade; and saturated Earth
 Awaits the Morning Beam, to give again,
 Transmuted soon by Nature's Chymistry,
 The blooming Blessings of the former Day:

THEN spring the living Herbs, profusely wild
 O'er all the deep-green Earth, beyond the Power
 Of *Botanist* to number up their Tribes;
 Whether he steals along the lonely Dale,
 In silent Search; or thro' the Forest, rank
 With what the dull incurious Weeds account,
 Bursts his blind Way; or climbs the Mountain-Rock,
Fir'd

S P R I N G

Fir'd by the nodding Verdure of its Brow.
 With such a liberal Hand has *Nature* flung
 Their Seeds abroad, blown them about in Winds,
 Innumerable mix'd them with the nursing Mold,
 The moistning Current, and prolific Rain.

BUT who their Virtues can declare? who pierce
 With holy Eye into these secret Stores
 Of Life, and Health, and Joy? The Food of Man
 While yet he liv'd in Innocence, and told
 A Length of golden Years, unflish'd in Blood,
 A Stranger to the Savage Arts of Life,
 Death Rapine, Carnage, Surfeit, and Disease,
 The Lord, and not the Tyrant of the World.

THEN the glad Morning wak'd the gladden'd Race
 Of uncorrupted Men, nor blush'd to see
 The Sluggard sleep beneath her sacred Beam,
 For their light Slumbers gently fum'd away,
 And up they rose as vigorous as the Sun,
 Or to the Culture of the willing Glebe,
 Or to the chearful Tendance of the Flock,

Mean-time the Song went round; and Dance, and
Sport,

Wisdom, and friendly Talk successive stole
Their Hours away. While in the rosy Vale
Love breath'd his Infant-Sighs, from Anguish free,
Fragrant with Bliss, and only wept for Joy.
Nor yet injurious Act, nor surly Deed
Was known among these happy Sons of Heaven;
For Reason and Benevolence were Law.
Harmonious Nature too look'd smiling on,
Clean shone the Skies, cool'd with eternal Gales,
And balmy Spirit all. The youthful Sun
Shot his best Rays; and still the gracious Clouds
Drop'd Fatness down; as o'er the swelling Mead
The Herds and Flocks commixing play'd secure.
Which when, emergent from the gloomy Wood,
The glaring Lyon saw, his horrid Heart
Was meeken'd, and he join'd his sullen Joy.
For Musick held the whole in perfect Peace:
Soft sigh'd the Flute; the tender Voice was heard
Warbling the joyous Heart; the Woodlands round
Apply'd their Quire; and Winds and Waters flow'd
In Consonance.---Such were these Prime of Days.

THIS to the *Poets* gave the golden Age ;
When, as they sung in Allegoric Phrase,
The Sailor-Pine had not the Nations yet
In Commerce mix'd ; for every Country teem'd
With every Thing. Spontaneous Harvests way'd
Still in a Sea of yellow Plenty round.
The Forest was the Vineyard, where untaught
To climb, unprun'd, and wild, the juicy Grape
Burst into Floods of Wine. The knotted Oak
Shook from his Boughs the long transparent Streams
Of Honey, creeping thro' the matted Grass.
Th' uncultivated Thorn a ruddy Shower
Of Fruitage shed, on such as sat below,
In blooming Ease, and from brown Labour free,
Save what the copious Gathering, grateful, gave.
The Rivers foam'd with Nectar ; or diffuse,
Silent, and soft, the milky Maze devolv'd.
Nor had the spongy, full-expanded Fleece
Yet drunk the *Tyrian* Die. The stately Ram
Shone thro' the Mead, in native Purple clad,
Or milder Saffron : and the dancing Lamb

The

The vivid Crimſon to the Sun diſclos'd,
 Nothing had Power to hurt ; the ſavage Soul,
 Yet untransfus'd into the Tyger's Heart,
 Burn'd not his Bowels, nor his gameſome Paw
 Drove on the fleecy Partners of his Play :
 While from the flowery Brake the Serpent roll'd
 His fairer Spires, and play'd his pointleſs Tongue.

BUT now whate'er thoſe gaudy Fables meant,
 And the white Minutes that they ſhadow'd out,
 Are found no more amid theſe Iron Times,
 Theſe Dregs of Life ! in which the Human Mind
 Has loſt that Harmony ineffable,
 Which forms the Soul of Happineſs ; and all
 Is off the Poiſe within ; the Paſſions all
 Have burſt their Bounds ; and Reaſon half extinct,
 Or impotent, or elſe approving, ſees
 The foul Diſorder. Anger ſtorms at large,
 Without an equal Cauſe ; and fell Revenge
 Supports the falling Rage. Cloſe Envy bites
 With venom'd Tooth ; while weak, unmanly Fear,
 Full of frail Fancies, looſens every Power.

Even Love itself is Bitterness of Soul,
 A pleasing Anguish pining at the Heart.
 Hope sickens with Extravagance ; and Grief,
 Of Life impatient, into Madness swells,
 Or in dead Silence wastes the weeping Hours.
 These, and a thousand new Emotions more,
 That from their Mixture spring, distract the Mind
 With endless Tumult. Whence resulting rise
 The selfish Thought, a listless Inconcern,
 Cold, and averting from our Neighbour's Good ;
 Then dark Disgust, and Malice, winding Wiles,
 Sneaking Deceit, and Coward Villany :
 At last unruly Hatred, lewd Reproach,
 Convulsive Wrath, and thoughtless Fury quick
 To every evil Deed. Even Nature's self
 Is deem'd vindictive, to have chang'd her Course.

HENCE in old Time, they say, a Deluge came ;
 When the dry-crumbling Orb of Earth, which arch'd
 Th' imprison'd Deep around, impetuous rush'd,
 With Ruin inconceivable, at once
 Into the Gulph, and o'er the highest Hills

Wide-

Wide-dash'd the Waves, in Undulation vast :
 Till from the Centre to the streaming Clouds,
 A shoreless Ocean tumbled round the Globe.

THE *Seasons* since, as hoar *Tradition* tells,
 Have kept their constant Chace ; the *Winter* keen
 Pour'd out his Waste of Snows, and *Summer* shor
 His pestilential Heats : great *Spring* before
 Green'd all the Year ; and Fruits and Blossoms blush'd
 In social Sweetness on the self-same Bough.
 Clear was the temperate Air ; an even Calm
 Perpetual reign'd, save what the Zephyrs bland
 Breath'd o'er the blue Expanse ; for then nor Storms
 Were taught to blow, nor Hurricanes to rage ;
 Sound slept the Waters : no sulphureous Gloom
 Swell'd in the Sky, and sent the Lightning forth :
 While sickly Damps, and cold Autumnal Fogs
 Sat not pernicious on the Springs of Life.
 But now from clear to cloudy, moist to dry,
 And hot to cold, in restless Change revolv'd,
 Our drooping Days are dwindled down to nought,
 The fleeting Shadow of a Winter's Sun.

AND yet the wholesome Herb neglected dies
In lone Obscurity, unpriz'd for Food,
Altho' the pure, exhilarating Soul
Of Nutriment, and Health, salubrious breathes,
By *Heaven* infus'd, along its secret Tubes.
For, with hot Ravine fir'd, ensanguin'd Man
Is now become the Lyon of the Plain,
And worse. The Wolf, who from the nightly Fold
Fierce-drags the bleating Prey, ne'er drunk her Milk,
Nor wore her warming Fleece: nor has the Steer,
At whose strong Chest the deadly Tyger hangs,
E'er plow'd for him. They too are temper'd high,
With Hunger stung, and wild Necessity,
Nor lodges Pity in their shaggy Breasts.
But *Man*, whom *Nature* form'd of milder Clay,
With every kind Emotion in his Heart,
And taught alone to weep; while from her Lap
She pours ten thousand Delicacies, Herbs,
And Fruits as numerous as the drops of Rain,
And Beams which gave them Birth: shall He, fair Form!
Who wears sweet Smiles, and looks erect on Heaven,
E'er

E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling Herd,
And dip his Tongue in Blood? The Beast of Prey,
'Tis true, deservyes the Fate in which he deals;
Him from the Thicket let the hardy Youth
Provoke, and foaming thro' th' awakened Woods
With every Nerve pursue. But You, ye Flocks,
What have ye done? ye peaceful People, what,
To merit Death? You, who have given us Milk
In luscious Streams, and lent us your own Coat
Against the Winter's Cold; whose Usefulness
In living only lies. And the plain Ox,
That harmless, honest, guileless Animal,
In what has he offended? He, whose Toil,
Patient, and ever-ready, cloaths the Fields
With all the Pomp of Harvest; shall he bleed,
And wrestling groan beneath the cruel Hands,
Even of the Clowns he feeds? And that perhaps
To swell the Riot of the gathering Feast,
Won by his Labour, Thus the feeling Heart
Would tenderly suggest. But 'tis enough,
In this late Age adventurous to have touch'd
Light on the Numbers of the *Samian* Sage,

High *Heaven* beside forbids the daring Strain,
 Whose wisest Will has fix'd us in a State,
 Which must not yet to pure Perfection rise.

BUT yonder breathing Prospect bids the Muse
 Throw all her Beauty forth, that Daubing all
 Will be to what I gaze; for who can paint
 Like *Nature*? Can *Imagination* boast
 Amid his gay Creation Hues like Her's?
 And can He mix them with that matchless Skill,
 And lay them on so delicately sweet,
 And lose them in each other, as appears
 In every Bud that blows? If Fancy then
 Unequal fails beneath the lovely Task;
 Ah what shall Language do? Ah where find Words
 Ting'd with so many Colours? And whose Power
 To Life approaching, may perfume my Lays
 With that fine Oil, these aromatic Gales,
 Which inexhaustive flow continual round?

YET, tho' successful, will the Toil delight.
 Come then ye Virgins, and ye Youths, whose Hearts
 Have

Have felt the Raptures of refining Love,
Oh come, and while the rosy-footed *May*
Steals blushing on, together let us walk
The Morning Dews, and gather in their Prime
Fresh-blooming Flowers, to deck the flowing Hair,
And for a Breast which can improve their Sweets,

SEE, where the winding Vale her lavish Stores,
Irriguous, spreads. See, how the Lilly drinks
The latent Rill, scarce oozing thro' the Grass
Of Growth luxuriant, or the humid Bank
Profusely climbs. Turgent, in every Pore
The Gummy Moisture shines, new Lustre lends,
And feeds the Spirit that diffusive round
Refreshes all the Dale, Long let us walk,
Where the Breeze blows from yon extended Field
Of blossom'd Beans: *Arabia* cannot boast
A fuller Gale of Joy than, liberal, thence
Breathes thro' the Sense, and takes the ravish'd Soul,
Nor is the Meadow worthless of our Foot,
Full of fresh Verdure, and unnumber'd Flowers,
The Negligence of *Nature*, wide, and wild,
Where,

Where, undisguis'd by mimic *Art*, she shows
 Unbounded Beauty to the boundless Eye.
 'Tis here that their delicious Task the Bees,
 In swarming Millions, tend. Around, athwart,
 This Way and that, the busy Nations fly,
 Cling to the Bud, and, with inserted Tube,
 It's Soul, it's Sweetness, and it's Manna suck.
 The little Chymist thus, all-moving *Heaven*
 Has taught. And oft, of bolder Wing, he dares
 The Purple Heath, or where the Wild-Thyme grows,
 And yellow loads him with the luscious Spoil.

A length the finish'd Garden to the View
 It's Vista opens, and it's Alleys green.
 Snatch'd thro' the verdant Maze, the hurried Eye
 Distracted wanders; now the bowery Walk
 Of Covert close, where scarce a Speck of Day
 Falls on the lengthen'd Gloom, protracted darts;
 Now meets the bending Sky, the River now
 Dimpling along, the breezy-ruffled Lake,
 The Forest running round, the rising Spire,
 Th' ætherial Mountain, and the distant Main,

‡

But

But why so far excursive? When at Hand,
Along the blushing Borders, dewy-bright,
And in yon mingled Wilderneys of Flowers,
Fair-handed *Spring* unbosoms every Grace;
Throws out the Snow-Drop, and the Crocus first,
The Daisy, Primrose, Violet darkly blue,
Soft-bending Cowslips, and of nameless Dyes,
Anemonies, Auriculas, a Tribe
Peculiar powder'd with a shining Sand,
Renunculas, and Iris many-hued.
Then comes the Tulip-Race, where Beauty plays
Her gayest Freaks; from Family diffus'd
To Family, as flies the Father-Dust,
The varied Colours run; and while they break
On the charm'd *Florist's* Eye, he wondering stands,
And new-flush'd Glories all ecstatic marks.
Nor Hyacinths are wanting, nor Junquils
Of potent Fragrance, nor Narcissus white,
Nor deep Carnations, nor enamel'd Pinks,
And show'r'd from every Bush the Damask-Rose,
Infinite Numbers, Delicacies. Smells,
With

With Hues on Hues, Expression cannot paint,
The Breath of *Nature*, and her endless Bloom.

HAIL, *Mighty Being! Universal Soul*
Of Heaven and Earth! *Essential Presence*, hail!
To *Thee* I bend the Knee, to *Thee* my Thoughts
Continual climb, who, with a Master-Hand,
Hast the great Whole into Perfection touch'd.
By *Thee* the various vegetative Tribes,
Wrapt in a filmy Net, and clad with Leaves,
Draw the live Æther, and imbibe the Dew,
By *Thee* dispos'd into congenial Soils
Stands each attractive Plant, and sucks, and swells
The juicy Tide, a twining Mass of Tubes.
At *Thy* Command, the vernal Sun awakes
The torpid Sap, detrudd to the Root
By Wintry Winds, that now, in fluent Dance
And lively Fermentation, mounting, spreads
All this innumerable-colour'd Scene of things.

ASCENDING from the vegetable World
To higher Life, with equal Wing ascend,

My panting Muse ; and hark, how loud the Woods
Invite you forth in all your gayest Trim.
Lend me your Song, ye Nightingales ! oh pour
The mazy-running Soul of Melody
Into my varied Verse ! while I deduce,
From the first Note the hollow Cuckoo sings,
The Symphony of *Spring*, and touch a Theme
Unknown to Fame, the Passion of the Groves.

J u s t as the Spirit of Love is sent abroad,
Warm thro' the vital Air, and on their Hearts
Harmonious seizes, the gay Troops begin
In gallant Thought to plume their painted Wings,
And try again the long-forgotten Strain,
At first faint-warbled. But no sooner grows
The soft Infusion prevalent, and wide,
Than all alive at once their Joy o'erflows
In Music unconfin'd. Up-springs the Lark,
Shrill-voiced, and loud, the Messenger of Morn ;
Ere yet the Shadows fly, He mounted sings
Amid the dawning Clouds, and from their Haunts
Calls up the tuneful Nations. Every Copse

Thick-

Thick-wove, and Tree irregular, and Bush,
Bending with dewy Moisture o'er the Heads
Of the coy Quiristers that lodge within,
Are prodigal of Harmony. The Thrush,
And Wood-Lark, o'er the kind-contending Throng
Superior heard, run thro' the sweetest Length
Of Notes, when listening *Philomela* deigns
To let them joy, and purposes, in Thought
Elate, to make her Night excel their Day.
The Black-bird whistles from the thorny Brake;
The mellow Bull-finch answers from the Grove:
Nor are the Linnets, o'er the flowering Furze,
Pour'd out profusely, silent. Join'd to these,
Thousands beside, thick as the covering Leaves
They warble under, or the nitid Hues
Which speck them o'er, their Modulations mix
Mellifluous. The Jay, the Rook, the Daw,
And all these jangling Pipes, when heard alone,
Here aid the Consort: while the Wood-Dove breathes
A melancholy Murmur thro' the whole.

'Tis Love creates their Gaiety, and all
This Waste of Music is the Voice of Love;
Which even to Birds, and Beasts, the tender Arts
Of Pleasing teaches. Hence the glossy Kind
Try every winning Way inventive Love
Can dictate, and in fluttering Courtship pour
Their little Souls before Her. Wide around,
Respectful, first in airy Rings they rove,
Endeavouring by a thousand Tricks to catch
The cunning, conscious, half-averted Glance
Of their regardless Charmer. Should she seem
Softening the least Approvance to bestow,
Their Colours burnish, and by Hope inspir'd
They brisk advance; then on a sudden struck
Retire disorder'd; then again approach,
And throwing out the last Efforts of Love,
In fond Rotation spread the spotted Wing,
And shiver every Feather with Desire.

CONNUBIAL Leagues agreed, to the deep Woods
They haste away, each as their Fancy leads,

Plea-

Pleasure, or Food, or latent Safety prompts,
That *Nature's* great Command may be obey'd,
Nor all these sweet Sensations they perceive
Indulg'd in vain. Some to the Holly-Hedge
Nestling repair, and to the Thicket some;
Some to the rude Protection of the Thorn
Resolve to trust their Young. The clefted Tree
Offers it's kind Concealment to a few,
Their Food it's Insects, and it's Moss their Nests.
Others apart far in the grassy Dale
Their humble Texture weave. But most delight
In unfrequented Glooms, or shaggy Banks,
Steep, and divided by a babbling Brook,
Whose Murmurs sooth them all the live-long Day,
When for a Season fix'd. Among the Roots
Of Hazel, pendant o'er the plaintive Stream,
They frame the first Foundation of their Domes,
Dry Sprigs of Trees, in artful Manner laid,
And bound with Clay together. Now 'tis nought
But Hurry Hurry thro' the busy Air,
Beat by unnumber'd Wings. The Swallow sweeps
The slimy Pool, to build his hanging House

Ingeni-

Ingeniously intent. Oft from the Back
Of Herds and Flocks a thousand tugging Bills
Pluck Hair, and Wool, and oft when unobserv'd
Steal from the Barn the Straw ; till soft, and warm,
Clean, and compleat, their Habitation grows.

MEAN-TIME the patient Dam assiduous sits,
Not to be tempted from her tender Task,
Or by sharp Hunger, or by smooth Delight,
Tho' the whole loosen'd Spring around her blows,
Her sympathizing Lover takes his Stand
High on th' opponent Bank, and ceaseless sings
The tedious Time away ; or else supplies
Her Place a Moment, while she sudden flits
To pick the scanty Meal. Th' appointed Time
With pious Toil fulfill'd, the callow Young
Warm'd, and expanded into perfect Life,
Their brittle Bondage break, and come to Light,
A helpless Family, demanding Food
With constant Clamour. Oh what Passions then,
What melting Sentiments of kindly Care
Seize the new Parents' Hearts ! Away they fly

Affectionate, and undesiring bear
The most delicious Morfel to their Young,
Which equally distributed, again
The Search begins. So pitiful, and poor,
A gentle Pair on Providential *Heaven*
Cast, as they weeping eye their clamant Train,
Check their own Appetites, and give them all.

Nor is the Courage of the fearful Kind,
Nor is their Cunning less, should some rude Foot
Their Woody Haunts molest; stealthy aside
Into the Centre of a neighb'ring Bush
They drop, and whirring thence alarm'd, deceive
The rambling School-Boy. Hence around the Head
Of Traveller, the white-wing'd Plover wheels
Her sounding Flight, and then directly on
In long Excursion skims the level Lawn,
To tempt you from her Nest. The Wild-Duck hence
O'er the rough Moss, and o'er the trackless Waste
The Heath-Hen flutters, as if hurt, to lead
The hot, pursuing Spaniel far astray.

B E not the Muse ashamed, here to bemoan
 Her Brothers of the Grove, by Tyrant Man
 Inhuman caught, and in the narrow Cage
 From Liberty confin'd, and boundless Air.
 Dull are the pretty Slaves, their Plumage dull,
 Ragged, and all it's brightning Lustre lost;
 Nor is that luscious Wildness in their Notes
 That warbles from the Beech. Oh then desist,
 Ye Friends of Harmony! this barbarous Art
 Forbear, if Innocence and Music can
 Win on your Hearts, or Piety persuade.

B U T let not chief the Nightingale lament
 Her ruin'd Care, too delicately fram'd
 To brook the harsh Confinement of the Cage.
 Oft when returning with her loaded Bill,
 Th' astonish'd Mother finds a vacant Nest,
 By the hard Hands of unrelenting Clowns
 Rob'd, to the Ground the vain Provision falls;
 Her Pinions ruffle, and low-drooping scarce
 Can bear the Mourner to the Poplar Shade,

Where all-abandon'd to Despair she sings
 Her Sorrows thro' the Night; and, on the Bough
 Sad-sitting, still at every dying Fall
 Takes up again her lamentable Strain
 Of winding Woe, till wide around the Woods
 Sigh at her Song, and with her Wail resound.

AND now the feather'd Youth their former Bounds
 Ardent disdain, and weighing oft their Wings,
 Demand the free Possession of the Sky.
 But this glad Office more, and then dissolves
 Parental Love at once; for needless grown,
 Unlavish *Wisdom* never works in vain.
 'Tis on some Evening, sunny, grateful, mild,
 When nought but Balm is breathing thro' the Woods
 With yellow Lustre bright, that the new Tribes
 Visit the spacious Heavens, and look abroad
 On *Nature's* Common, far as they can see,
 Or wing, their Range, and Pasture. O'er the Boughs
 Dancing about, still at the giddy Verge
 Their Resolution fails; their Pinions still,
 In loose Libration stretch'd, the void Abrupt
 Trembling

Trembling refuse : till down before them fly
The Parent-Guides, and chide, exhort, command,
Or push them off. The surging Air receives
The plummy Burden ; and their self-taught Wings
Winnow the waving Element. On Ground
Alighted bolder, up again they lead
Farther and farther on the lengthning Flight ;
Till vanish'd every Fear, and every Power
Rous'd into Life, and Action, in the Void
Th' exoner'd Parents see their soaring Race, |
And once rejoicing, never know them more.

H I G H from the Summit of a craggy Cliff,
Hung o'er the green Sea grudging at it's Base,
The Royal Eagle draws his Young, resolv'd
To try them at the Sun. Strong-pounc'd, and bright
As burnish'd Day, they up the blue Sky wind,
Leaving dull Sight below, and with fixt Gaze
Drink in their native Noon : The Father-King
Claps his glad Pinions, and approves the Birth.

AND should I wander to the rural Seat,
Whose aged Oaks, and venerable Gloom
Invite the noisy Rook, with Pleasure there,
I might the various Polity survey
Of the mixt Household Kind. The careful Hen
Calls all her chirping Family around,
Fed, and defended by the fearless Cock,
Whose Breast with Ardour flames, as on he walks
Graceful, and crows Defiance, In the Pond,
The finely-chequer'd Duck, before her Train,
Rows garrulous. The stately-sailing Swan
Gives out his snowy Plumage to the Gale,
And, arching proud his Neck, with oary Feet
Bears onward fierce, and beats you from the Bank,
Protective of his Young. The Turkey nigh,
Loud-threatning, reddens; while the Peacock spreads
His every-colour'd Glory to the Sun,
And swims in floating Majesty along.
O'er the whole homely Scene, the cooing Dove
Flies thick in amorous Chace, and wanton rolls
The glancing Eye, and turns the changeful Neck.

W H I L E

W H I L E thus the gentle Tenants of the Shade
Indulge their purer Loves, the rougher World
Of Brutes below rush furious into Flame,
And fierce Desire. Thro' all his lusty Veins
The Bull, deep-scorcht, receives the raging Fire.
Of Pasture sick, and negligent of Food,
Scarce-seen, he wades among the yellow Broom,
While o'er his brawny Back the rambling Sprays
Luxuriant shoot; or thro' the mazy Wood
Dejected wanders, nor th' enticing Bud
Crops, tho' it presses on his careless Sense:
For, wrapt in mad Imagination, he
Roars for the Fight, and idly butting feigns
A Rival gor'd in every knotty Trunk.
Such should he meet, the bellowing War begins;
Their Eyes flash Fury; to the hollow'd Earth,
Whence the Sand flies, they mutter bloody Deeds,
And groaning vast th' impetuous Battle mix:
While the fair Heifer, redolent, in View
Stands kindling up their Rage. The trembling Steed,
With this hot Impulse seiz'd in every Nerve,

Nor hears the Rein, nor heeds the sounding Whip ;
Blows are not felt ; but tossing high his Head,
And by the well-known Joy to distant Plains
Attracted strong, all wild, he bursts away ;
O'er Rocks, and Woods, and craggy Mountains flies,
And neighing on th' aerial Summit takes
Th' informing Gale ; then steep-descending stems
The headlong Torrents foaming down the Hills,
Even where the Madness of the straiten'd Stream
Turns in black Eddies round : Such is the Force
With which his frantic Heart, and Sinews swell.

NOR, undelighted by the boundless *Spring*,
Are the broad Monsters of the Deep : thro' all
Their oozy Caves, and gelid Kingdoms rous'd,
They flounce, and tumble in unwieldy Joy.
Dire were the Strain, and dissonant, to sing
The cruel Raptures of the Savage Kind ;
How the red Lionsess, her Whelps forgot
Amid the thoughtless Fury of her Heart,
The lank rapacious Wolf, th' unshapely Bear,
The spotted Tyger, fellest of the Fell,

And

And all the Terrors of the *Lybian* Swain,
By this new Flame their Native Wrath sublim'd,
Roam the resounding WASTE in fiercer Bands,
And growl their horrid Loves. But this the Theme
I sing, transported to the *British* Fair,
Forbids, and leads me to the Mountain-brow,
Where sits the Shepherd on the grassy Turf,
Inhaling, healthful, the descending Sun.
Around him feeds his many-bleating Flock,
Of various Cadence; and his sportive Lambs,
This way and that convolv'd in friskful Glee,
Their little Frolics play. And now the Race
Invites them forth; when swift, the Signal given,
They start away, and sweep the circling Mound
That runs around the Hill; the Rampart once
Of Iron War, in antient barbarous Times,
When disunited *Britain* ever bled,
Lost in eternal Broil; e'er yet she grew
To this deep-laid, indissoluble State,
Where *Wealth* and *Commerce* lift their golden Head,
And o'er our Labours, *Liberty* and *Law*
Illustrious watch, the Wonder of a World!

WHAT

WHAT is this mighty *Breath*, ye Curious, say,
Which, in a Language rather felt than heard,
Instructs the Fowls of Heaven; and thro' their Breasts
These Arts of Love diffuses? --- What? but GOD!
Inspiring GOD! who boundless Spirit all,
And unremitting Energy, pervades,
Subsists, adjusts, and agitates the Whole.
He ceaseless works alone, and yet alone
Seems not to work, so exquisitely fram'd
Is this complex, amazing Scene of Things,
But tho' conceal'd, to every purer Eye
Th' informing Author in his Works appears;
His Grandeur in the Heavens: the Sun, and Moon,
Whether that fires the Day, or falling this
Pours out a lucid Softness o'er the Night,
Are but a Beam from Him. The glittering Stars,
By the deep Ear of Meditation heard,
Still in their Midnight Watches sing of Him.
He nods a Calm. The Tempest blows His Wrath,
Roots up the Forest, and o'erturns the Main:
The Thunder is His Voice; and the red Flash
His

His speedy Sword of Justice. At His Touch
 The Mountains flame. He takes the solid Earth,
 And rocks the Nations. Nor in these alone,
 In every common Instance *G O D* is seen;
 And to the Man, who casts his mental Eye
 Abroad, unnotic'd Wonders rise. But chief
 In Thee, Boon *Spring*, and in thy softer Scenes,
 The smiling *G O D* appears; while Water, Earth,
 And Air attest his Bounty, which infills
 Into the Brutes this temporary Thought,
 And annual melts their undefining Hearts
 Profusely thus in Tenderness, and Joy,

S T I L L let my Song a nobler Note assume,
 And sing th' infusive Force of *Spring* on Man;
 When Heaven and Earth, as if contending, vie
 To raise his Being, and serene his Soul.
 Can he forbear to smile with *Nature*? Can
 The stormy Passions in his Bosom rowl,
 While every Gale is Peace, and every Grove
 Is Melody? Hence, from the bounteous Walks
 Of flowing *Spring*, ye sordid Sons of Earth,
 Hard,

Hard, and unfeeling of Another's Woe,
 Or only lavish to Yourselfes,-----away.
 But come, ye generous Breasts, in whose wide Thought,
 Of all his Works, *Creative Bounty*, most,
 Divinely burns; and on your open Front,
 And liberal Eye, sits, from his dark Retreat
 Inviting modest Want. Nor only fair,
 And easy of Approach; your active Search
 Leaves no cold wintry Corner unexplor'd,
 Like silent-working *Heaven*, surprizing oft
 The lonely Heart with unexpected Good.
 For you the roving Spirit of the Wind
 Blows *Spring* abroad, for you the teeming Clouds
 Descend in buxom Plenty o'er the World,
 And the Sun spreads his genial Blaze for you,
 Ye flower of Human Race! In these green Days,
 Sad-pining Sickneſs lifts her languid Head;
 Life flows afreſh; and young-ey'd Health exalts
 The whole Creation round. Contentment walks
 The Sunny Glade, and feels an inward Blifs
 Spring o'er his Mind, beyond the Pride of Kings
 E'er to beſtow. Serenity apace

Induces

Induces Thought, and Contemplation still.
 By small Degrees the Love of Nature works,
 And warms the Bosom ; till at last arriv'd
 To Rapture, and enthusiastic Heat,
 We feel the present *Deity*, and taste
 The Joy of *G O D*, to see a happy World.

'Tis *Harmony*, that World-embracing Power,
 By which all Beings are adjusted, each
 To all around, impelling and impell'd
 In endless Circulation, that inspires
 This universal Smile. Thus the glad Skies,
 The wide-rejoycing Earth, the Woods, the Streams,
 With every *Life* they hold, down to the Flower
 That paints the lowly Vale, or Insect-Wing
 Wav'd o'er the Shepherd's Slumber, touch the Mind
 To Nature tun'd, with a light-flying Hand,
 Invisible ; quick-urging, thro' the Nerves,
 The glittering Spirits, in a Flood of Day.

HENCE from the Virgin's Cheek, a fresher Bloom
 Shoots, less and less, the live Carnation round,

Her

Her Lips blush deeper Sweets; she breathes of Youth;
The shining Moisture swells into her Eyes,
In brighter Flow; her wishing Bosom heaves
With Palpitations wild? kind Tumults seize
Her Veins, and all her yielding Soul is Love.
From the keen Gaze her Lover turns away,
Full of the dear ecstatic Power, and sick
With sighing Languishment. Ah then, ye Fair!
Be greatly cautious of your sliding Hearts;
Dare not th' infectious Sigh, the pleading Eye
In meek Submission drest, deject, and low,
But full of tempting Guile. Let not the Tongue,
Prompt to deceive, with Adulation smooth,
Gain on your purpos'd Wills. Nor in the Bower,
Where Woodbines flaunt, and Roses shed a Couch,
While Evening draws her crimson'd Curtains round,
Trust your soft Minutes with betraying Man.

AND let th' aspiring Youth beware of Love,
And shun th' enchanting Glance, for 'tis too late
When on his Heart the Torrent Softness pours.

Then

Then Interest sinks to Dirt, and distant Fame
Dissolves in Air away. While the fond Soul
Is wrapt in Dreams of Ecstasy, and Bliss;
Still paints th' illusive Form, the kindling Grace,
Th' alluring Smile, the full æthereal Eye
Effusing Heaven; and listens ardent still
To the small Voice, where Harmony and Wit,
A modest, melting, mingled Sweetness, flow.
No sooner is the fair Idea form'd,
And Contemplation fixes on the Theme,
Than from his own Creation wild he flies,
Sick of a Shadow. Absence comes apace,
And shoots his every Pang into his Breast.
'Tis nought but Gloom around. The darken'd Sun
Loses his Light. The rosy-bosom'd Spring
To weeping Fancy pines; and yon bright Arch
Of Heaven low-bends into a dusky Vault,
All Nature fades extinct; and She alone
Heard, felt, and seen, possesses every Thought,
Fills every Sense, and pants in every Vein.
Books are but formal Dulness, tedious Friends,

And

And sad amid the Social Band he sits,
Lonely, and inattentive. From the Tongue
Th' unfinish'd Period falls : while, born away,
On swelling Thought, his wasted Spirit flie
To the dear Bosom of his absent Fair ;
And leaves the Semblance of a Lover ; fix'd
In melancholy Site, with Head declin'd,
And Love-dejected Eyes. Sudden he starts,
Shook from his tender Trance, and restless runs
To glimmering Shades, and sympathetic Gloom,
Where the dun Umbrage o'er the falling Stream
Romantic hangs ; there thro' the pensive Dusk
Strays, in Heart-thrilling Meditation lost,
Indulging all to Love : or on the Bank
Thrown, amid drooping Lillies, swells the Breeze
With Sighs unceasing, and the Brook with Tears.
Thus in soft Anguish he consumes the Day ;
Nor quits his deep Retirement, till the Moon
Peeps thro' the Chambers of the fleecy East,
Enlighten'd by Degrees, and in her Train
Leads on the gentle Hours ; then forth he walks,
Beneath

Beneath the trembling Languish of her Beams,
With soften'd Soul, and wooes the Bird of Eve
To mingle Woes with his : or while the World,
And all the Sons of Care lie hush'd in Sleep,
Associates with the Midnight Shadows drear,
And, sighing to the lonely Taper, pours
His sweetly tortur'd Heart into the Page
Meant for the moving Messenger of Love.
But ah how faint, how meaningless, and poor,
To what his Passion swells ! which bursts the Bounds
Of every Eloquence, and asks for Looks,
Where Fondness flows on Fondness, Love on Love,
Entwisting Beams with Her's, and speaking more
Than ever charm'd, ecstatic Poet sigh'd
To listening Beauty, bright with conscious Smiles,
And graceful Vanity. But if on Bed
Delirious flung, Sleep from his Pillow flies.
All Night he tosses, nor the balmy Power
In any Posture finds ; 'till the grey Morn
Lifts her pale Lustre on the paler Wretch,
Exanimate by Love : and then perhaps

Exhausted Nature sinks a-while to Rest,
Still interrupted by disorder'd Dreams,
That o'er the sick Imagination rise,
And in black Colours paint the mimic Scene:
Oft with the Charmer of his Soul he talks;
Sometimes in Crowds distrest; or if retir'd
To secret winding, Flower-inwoven Bowers,
Far from the dull Impertinence of Man,
Just as he kneeling all his former Cares
Begins to lose in vast oblivious Love,
Snatch'd from her yielded Hand, he knows not how,
Thro' Forests huge, and long untravel'd Heaths
With Desolation brown, he wanders waste,
In Night and Tempest wrapt: or shrinks aghast,
Back, from the bending Precipice; or wades
The turbid Stream below, and strives to reach
The farther Shore, where succourless, and sad,
His Dearer Life extends her beckoning Arms,
But strives in vain, born by th' outrageous Flood
To Distance down, he rides the ridgy Wave,
Or whelm'd beneath the boiling Eddy sinks.

Then

Then a weak, wailing, lamentable Cry
Is heard, and all in Tears he wakes, again
To tread the Circle of revolving Woe.
These are the charming Agonies of Love,
Whose Misery delights. But thro' the Heart
Should Jealousy its Venom once diffuse,
'Tis then delightful Misery no more,
But Agony unmix'd, incessant Rage,
Corroding every Thought, and blasting all
The Paradise of Love. Ye Fairy Prospects then,
Ye Beds of Roses, and ye Bowers of Joy,
Farewel! Ye Gleanings of departing Peace,
Shine out your last! The yellow-tinging Plague
Internal Vision taints, and in a Night
Of livid Gloom Imagination wraps.
Ay then, instead of Love-enliven'd Cheeks,
Of sunny Features, and of ardent Eyes
With flowing Rapture bright, dark Looks succeed,
Suffus'd, and glaring with unrender Fire,
A clouded Aspect, and a burning Cheek,
Where the whole poison'd Soul, malignant, sits,

And frightens Love away. Ten thousand Fears,
 Invented wild, ten thousand frantic Views
 Of horrid Rivals, hanging on the Charms
 For which he melts in Fondness, eat him up
 With fervent Anguish, and consuming Pine.
 In vain Reproaches lend their idle Aid,
 Deceitful Pride, and Resolution frail,
 Giving a Moment's Ease. Reflection pours,
 Afresh, her Beauties on his busy Thought,
 Her first Endearments, twining round the Soul,
 With all the Witchcraft of ensnaring Love.
 Strait the fierce Storm involves his Mind anew,
 Flames thro' the Nerves, and boils along the Veins;
 While anxious Doubt distracts the tortur'd Heart,
 For even the sad Assurance of his Fears
 Were Heaven to what he feels. Thus the warm Youth,
 Whom Love deludes into his thorny Wilds,
 Thro' flowery-tempting Paths, or leads a Life
 Of feavor'd Rapture, or of cruel Care,
 His brightest Aims extinguish'd all, and all
 His lively Moments running down to Waste.

But

BUT happy they! the happiest of their Kind!
Whom gentler Stars unite, and in one Fate
Their Hearts, their Fortunes, and their Beings blend.
'Tis not the courser Tie of human Laws,
Unnatural oft, and foreign to the Mind,
Which binds their Peace, but Harmony itself,
Attuning all their Passions into Love;
Where Friendship full-exerts his softest Power,
Perfect Esteem enliven'd by Desire
Ineffable, and Sympathy of Soul,
Thought meeting Thought, and Will preventing Will,
With boundless Confidence; for nought but Love
Can answer Love, and render Bliss secure.
Let him, ungenerous, who, alone intent
To bless himself, from sordid Parents buys
The loathing Virgin, in eternal Care,
Well-merited, consume his Nights and Days.
Let barbarous Nations, whose inhuman Love
Is wild Desire, fierce as the Suns they feel,
Let Eastern Tyrants from the Light of Heaven
Seclude their Bosom-slaves, meanly possess

Of

Of a meer, lifeless, violated Form :

While those whom Love cements, in holy Faith,

And equal Transport, free as Nature, live,

Disdaining Fear ; for what's the World to them,

It's Pomp, it's Pleasure, and it's Nonsense all !

Who in each other clasp whatever fair

High Fancy forms, and lavish Hearts can wish,

Something than Beauty dearer, should they look

Or on the Mind, or Mind-illumin'd Face,

Truth, Goodness, Honour, Harmony and Love,

The richest Bounty of indulgent *Heaven*.

Mean-time a smiling Offspring rises round,

And mingles both their Graces. By degrees,

The human Blossom blows ; and every Day,

Soft as it rolls along, shows some new Charm,

The Father's Lustre, and the Mother's Bloom.

Then infant Reason grows apace, and calls

For the kind Hand of an assiduous Care :

Delightful Task ! to rear the tender Thought,

To teach the young Idea how to shoot,

To pour the fresh Instruction o'er the Mind,

To breathe th' inspiring Spirit, and to plant

The

The generous Purpose in the glowing Breast.
Oh speak the Joy ! You, whom the sudden Tear
Surprizes often, while you look around,
And nothing strikes your Eye but Sights of Bliss,
All various Nature pressing on the Heart,
Obedient Fortune, and approving *Heaven*.
These are the Blessings of diviner Love ;
And thus their Moments fly ; the *Seasons* thus,
As ceaseless round a jarring World they roll,
Still find them happy ; and consenting S P R I N G
Sheds her own rosy Garland on their Head :
Till Evening comes at last, cool, gentle, calm ;
When after the long vernal Day of Life,
Enamour'd more, as Soul approaches Soul,
Together, down they sink in social Sleep.

T H E E N D .



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